[18th August 1956

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Is there any restriction with reference to the quota or number of permits the Government issue in any particular year?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : No, Sir, the Government cannot restrict the issue of licences or fix any quota.

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : In the mark system now in force, this difficulty arises. Applicants with four buses and less will be given one mark for each vehicle already licensed so that the owner of one vehicle gets one mark, the owner of two gets two marks and so on. Therefore, single-bus operators have no chance of getting additional permits in the near future and will not be able to survive. I plead that in the case of single-bus operators, special concession should be shown to protect them, especially in view of the recent policy of the Government with regard to renewal of permits. I am told fresh applications are invited creating insecurity for the existing operators with regard to their routes. May I suggest that the Government should take steps to protect single-bus operators and to that end, they should revert to the old practice of automatic renewal of permits?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : The hon. Member does not catch me. If there are 100 single-bus operators and four four-bus operators, until these 100 single-bus operators are provided to the level of four, the four-bus operators will be stagnated without being able to get to the viable limit. Therefore, I promise that I shall look into the question and see whether we can amend the rules without in any way lessening the speed with which four-bus operators could get to the viable limit and at the same time providing that the single-bus operator could also get more preference. All these have to be worked out and these depend upon the number of operators operating in a particular route in a particular district and the applications received for each route.

Revised list of Backward Classes

* 139-J *Q.*—Sri K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri K. V. Ramaswamy) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have submitted a revised list of backward classes in our state to the Backward Classes Commission set up by the Government of India; and

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of this revised list will be placed on the table of the House?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir. A revised list has been forwarded to the Government of India.

(*b*) The matter is, for the present, being treated as " top secret ".